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Message Text

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43
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P 211557Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

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PLS PASS TO RICHARD BLOOMFIELD

FOLLOWING REPEAT PORT OF SPAIN 2752 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO BRIDGETOWN GEORGETOWN KINGSTON PORT AU PRINCE SANTO DOMINGO
NOVEMBER 20TH:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2752

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS PFOR, TD, XL, CU
SUBJ: GOTT REACTION TO VOTE ON CUBAN SANCTIONS

1. ON NOVEMBER 17, THE "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN" QUOTED A "SPOKESMAN" FOR THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOTT WAS "DISAPPOINTED, FRUSTRATED, HURT, AND DEGRADED" BY THE DECISION OF THE QUITO MFM TO CONTINUE THE "MORALLY UNJUSTIFIABLE" SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA. THE UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE (PROBABLY T&T AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON VICTOR MCINTYRE WHO ATTENDED THE QUITO MEETING AND PASSED THROUGH TRINIDAD AFTERWARD) ALSO SAID THAT THE ADMISSION OF CUBA INTO THE OAS WAS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION AND THAT DECISION IN QUITO BROUGHT INTO SERIOUS QUESTION THE FUTURE OF THE NEW SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE INITIATED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.
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2. AN EARLIER EDITORIAL IN THE "GUARDIAN" ENTITLED "NO DIFFERENCE" NOTED THE U.S. SILENCE ON THE QUESTION OF REMOVING THE SANCTIONS AS WELL AS THE ABSENCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER WHO HAD "MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO." THE EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT LATIN AMERICA HAD NOT HAD HIGH PRIORITY IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FOR SOME TIME, "OTHERWISE A NOD FROM WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE PRODUCED THE VOTES TO DO ITS BIDDING EVEN IF SOME GIFT WERE NEEDED TO BRING THE WAVERER TO THE RIGHT SIDE." THE VOTE WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, AFFECT THE PLANS OF SEVERAL MORE COUNTRIES TO RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATTIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA, THE "GUARDIAN" CONCLUDED.

3. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED THE QUITO MFM BRIEFLY WITH MINEXTAFF ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY LENNOX BALLAH NOVEMBER 18 DURING A CALL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT. BALLAH TOOK A MORE SANGUINE VIEW OF THE MATTER AND AGREED THAT MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAN CUBA CONFRONTED THE HEMISPHERE. BALLAH CLAIMED THAT THE STATEMENT REPORTED IN THE "GUARDIAN" HAD NOT BEEN COORDINATED AND THAT HE WAS UNSURE OF THE SOURCE. IN COMMENTING ON THE QUITO MEETING, HE NOTED THAT HAITI HAD PLAYED THE SAME BARGAINING ROLE IN QUITO THAT IT HAD IN 1962 WHEN IT OFFERED TO SELL ITS VOTE ON EXCLUDING CUBA FROM THE OAS FOR A U.S. COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE PORT AU PRINCE AIRPORT. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY JAMAICA AND BARBADOS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO JOIN THE OAS WITHOUT SIGNING THE RIO TREATY, A COMMIT-MENT WHICH HE CONSIDERED A BASIC CONDITION FOR MEMBER-SHIP.

4. COMMENT: THE GOTT POSITION PROBABLY COMES MORE FROM ITS ASPIRATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE CARIBBEAN THAN ANY SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR CUBA. WITH ITS OWN GUERRILLAS CAPTURED, KILLED, OR DRIVEN INTO HIDING, THE GOTT MAY USE THE CUBAN ISSUE AS A SAFE VEHICLE FOR ASSERTING LEADER-SHIP AND AN ACTIVE THIRD WORLD FOREIGN POLICY WHILE SEPARATING ITSELF FROM U.S. POLICY AT NO GREAT COST. PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS SOUNDED THIS THEME HIMSELF DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO CHINA WHEN HE SAID THAT TRINIDAD WAS UNEQUIVOCALLY FOR THE INCORPORATION OF ALL COUNTRIES
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IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE SYSTEM. MILLER

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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